

BIRDBROOK PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2017

PRESENT: Mr T R Walker (Chairman)
Mr A Cook
Mr M Gilbert
Mr S Rhenius

CLERK: Mrs D Hilliard

ALSO PRESENT: Mr A Baxter

17/61 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Garrod, Mr D Simpson, Mr P Smart.

17/62 OTHER ABSENCES

Cllr D Finch.

17/63 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 6 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed. Proposed by Alan Cook, seconded by Martin Gilbert, all in favour.

17/64 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

17/65 REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Not present.

17/66 COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORT OF THE CLERK

Nothing to report.

17/67 DOCUMENTS ON DEPOSIT

RCCE – Noted

Public Consultation on Governance – Noted

EALC AGM – Noted

17/68 MEMBERS' REPORTS

- (a) *Pond* – Martin reported he had carried out some research on the amount of duckweed in the pond. He had used the Freshwater Habitats Trust which has a helpsheet on algae and duckweed. It was noted that water run-off from roads and high levels of nitrate in water contribute towards algae and duckweed levels in ponds. It would appear that the only answer would appear to be to dredge the pond but this has cost implications. Debbie will research grant options.
- (b) *Parks* – Nothing to report.
- (c) *Chairman's Report* – Richard thanked Peter Smart for chairing the July meeting and running matters through the summer.

- (d) *Highways* – A1017 – Richard recapped the situation – Warren Brace has been in touch with the MP and County Councillor. It appears it has been agreed that a speed limit be put in place along the stretch of A1017 but the Parish Council has not been informed of the actual speed limit or on what stretch of road it will be implemented.

Richard suggested the plans be broken down into 4 parts:-

- New England junction.
- Junction Station Road (using previous correspondence and petition)
- Implementation of 30mph speed limit from the old bridge on Station Road to junction
- A speed restriction of 40mph being put on the B1054 from Steeple Bumpstead to New England

It was agreed that Richard Walker and Alan Cook will meet and work on the above plans.

Salt bins – The Clerk has reported the broken bin at the junction of Fell Road/Moat Road/The Street together with a request for it to be relocated. It was noted that the bin has been removed. A request for an additional bin to be installed at Schoolfields is being submitted to the Local Highways Panel.

Drain grates – The Clerk also advised the Parish Council that drain grates had been stolen from locations along Station Road to Whitely Bridge. ECC Highways have been notified and they have made the situation safe by putting cones at the affected drains.

17/69 PLANNING

Application no – 17/00287/TPOCON – No comment.

17/70 STANSTED EXPANSION PROPOSAL

Alan reported he had attended the exhibition on 8 July at Great Dunmow. It was noted that Stansted Airport authorities aim to increase use of the airport with one runway to its maximum capacity.

Albert Baxter had also attended an exhibition at Saffron Walden. He was invited to report on his visit and advised that the current passenger cap is 35 million with an aim to increase this to 44.5 million. Current passenger numbers are 24 million. Expansion of local infrastructure would also be required.

17/71 REVIEW OF STREETLIGHTS

Richard thanked Peter for his work on this matter. It was noted that the lights will have to be changed to LED. Discussion also took place on the impact the proposed highway plans under minute no 17/68(d) would have on lighting. Richard and Alan will discuss lighting in conjunction with the highway proposals. Agenda for November meeting.

17/72 LITTER PICKING AND BIN EMPTYING

Debbie reported she had contacted Steeple Bumpstead Parish Council about their own arrangements but had not yet received a reply. Debbie has also spoken to Kevin Shears and he has quoted as follows:-

- As a guideline for a cost of £60/month (but no less than £15-20/hour) he can allocate 3-4 hours per calendar month to carry out litter picking, bin emptying and disposal, monitor and undertake maintenance work to benches and noticeboards and clean play equipment. If it is likely this time allowance is not sufficient he will contact the Parish Council to advise and obtain consent to proceed with extra hours.

It was agreed that Debbie will draft a contract and circulate for agreement before issuing to Kevin Shears.

17/73 VILLAGE SIGN

Alan reported he has visited the Village Sign People. The sign has been ordered on an oak post which will be etched with "Birdbrook". It has been suggested that a plinth be used, similar in style to the church wall. A site meeting with a proposed contractor for this work will be held. The sign will be delivered free of charge. Alan has updated Angela Balcombe at CIF. The sign should be ready to be installed early in 2018. An item will be put in the Village News. Alan was thanked for his work.

17/74 DEFIBRILLATOR

Alan reported that the defibrillator was installed on 19 July and was operational from 26 July. A test 999 call was made from the BT landline in the phone box to ensure everything is working. However, the light inside the phone box is not working. A defibrillator awareness event has been arranged from 28 September 2017 at 7pm in the Community House. This needs to be advertised locally. The code for the defibrillator is C159X. Alan also thanked X2 who supply fittings for phone boxes who had kindly supplied two "telephone box" placards free of charge for the Birdbrook box as a goodwill gesture. The parish council is grateful to X2 for this donation.

Baythorne End – Alan has offered to take Steve to the Community Heartbeat Trust – a date will be agreed. The current location of the phone box in Baythorne End is unsuitable for a defibrillator. However, to move the box to a more appropriate location would be expensive. It may be possible to locate a defibrillator on a post with solar power on the grassed triangle near the entrance to Baythorne Hall. The telephone box could remain at its current location, be refurbished and made ready for another purpose. Alan and Steve will report back.

17/75 PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT ON A1017

Discussed under minute 17/68 above.

17/76 FINANCE

Financial Report – Noted and agreed. All in favour.

Audit 2016/17 – Debbie reported that the external auditor had signed off these accounts with no comments. This was noted.

17/77 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

Not required.

17/78 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

None.

17/79 TIME, DAY AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 7 November at 7.00pm at the Community House.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm.

Signed: Dated:

DRAFT